

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: VISIT TO EC COMMISSION OF
AMBASSADOR EDWIN MARTIN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3924

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MARTIN DISCUSSED WFC ISSUES WITH
EC COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 12. EC SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS
REMAIN THOSE DESCRIBED DURING JUNE 6-7 US-EC CONSULTATIONS
BUT COMMISSIONERS, PARTICULARLY SOAMES, STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE CONSULTATION AS US AND EC DEVELOP
THEIR POSITIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE NEXT US-EC
EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT COULD TAKE PLACE IN JULY, WHEN
THE COMMISSION IS LIKELY TO SEND A POSITION PAPER ON THE
WFC TO THE EC COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR MARTIN WAS ALSO
INVITED TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS FOR CONSULTATIONS IN
SEPTEMBER PRIOR TO PREP COM III. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JUNE 12 AMBASSADOR MARTIN VISITED BRUSSELS AND

MET SEPARATELY WITH EC COMMISSIONERS LARDINOIS, SOAMES AND CHEYSSON TO DISCUSS WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) PROBLEMS. MARTIN REVIEWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF CURRENT US THINKING AND WENT OVER THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT PREP COM IN GENEVA. HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE SCENARIO OF WFC-RELATED MEETING BEING PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER. THESE INCLUDE AN AD HOC OECD MEETING (SEPT. 12-13) AS WELL AS AD HOC MEETINGS WITH DELEGATIONS IN ROME BEGINNING SEPT. 16, JUST PRIOR TO PREP COM III (SEPT. 23- OCT. 5).

3. THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS EC COMMISSIONERS WERE, IN GENERAL, THOSE DESCRIBED TO THE US DELEGATION DURING THE US-EC CONSULTATIONS JUNE 6-7 IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL). THE COMMISSIONERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SEPARATING WFC AND MTN ISSUES. LARDINOIS, AND TO SOME EXTENT SOAMES, RAISED THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING DAIRY PRODUCTS AND SUGAR IN THE WFC, BUT MARTIN SAID THAT THESE PRODUCTS WERE MUCH LESS IMPORTANT THAN GRAINS IN LDC NUTRITION PATTERNS. CHEYSSON MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONFERENCE.

4. SOAMES EXPRESSED SOME FEAR THAT THE WFC MIGHT TURN INTO ANOTHER UNGA (RAW MATERIALS). HE REGRETTED THE LACK OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE US AND EC DURING THE LATTER MEETING AND HOPED WE COULD DO BETTER AT THE WFC. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE START CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF IDEAS EARLY AND HAVE THEM OFTEN. HE SAID THAT IN THE WFC WE SHOULD WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER, SHOULD BE AWARE OF EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS, AND AVOID GIVING THE LDCS A STICK WITH WHICH TO BEAT US.

5. MARTIN WAS INFORMED THAT THE COMMISSION HOPED TO HAVE AN INITIAL PAPER ON THE CONFERENCE BY LATE JUNE. ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS, THIS PAPER WOULD GO TO THE COUNCIL BY MID-JULY. SOAMES SUGGESTED THAT JULY MIGHT, THEREFORE, BE A CONVENIENT TIME FOR A FURTHER US-EC EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT. THE THREE COMMISSIONERS ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF AMBASSADOR MARTIN COULD COME TO BRUSSELS TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSION ON A BILATERAL BASIS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPT. 10 OR 11, JUST PRIOR TO THE AD HOC MEETINGS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER (SEE PARA 1).

5. THE MISSION IS REPORTING SEPARATELY CHEYSSON'S PROPOSAL TO VISIT THE US IN LATE JULY. WHILE THE FOCUS OF HIS VISIT MAY BE ON OTHER LDC ISSUES, CHEYSSON WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY THINKING CONCERNING THE WFC AT THAT TIME. GREENWALD

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